b) administration of said immunogenic conjugate to an appropriate animal species to effect immunogenic challenge and recovery of antibody-producing cells sensitized to said conjugate;

c) immortalization of said antibody-producing cells; and

d) recovery of monoclonal antibody from a selected immortalized cell line thus established.

32. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 28 wherein the rapamycin is rapamycin.

33. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 28, wherein the 40-O-alkyl substituent is hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkoxyalkyl, acylaminoalkyl, or aminoalkyl.

34. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 33 wherein the rapamycin is

i) 40-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)-rapamycin,

ii) 40-O-(3-hydroxypropyl)-rapamycin,

iii) 40-O-[2-(2-hydroxy)ethoxy]ethyl-rapamycin, or

iv) 40-O-(2-acetaminoethyl)-rapamycin).

35. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 34, wherein the rapamycin is 40-O-(2-hydroxyethyl)-rapamycin.

36. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 28 which distinguishes between (i) rapamycin and (ii) a 40-O-alkylated rapamycin.

37. (new) A monoclonal antibody of claim 36 wherein the 40-O-alkyl substituent is hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkoxyalkyl, acylaminoalkyl, or aminoalkyl.

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38. (new) A hybridoma cell line which produces a monoclonal antibody of claim 28.

39. (new) An immunoassay kit for measuring the blood level of a rapamycin, comprising a monoclonal antibody of claim 28.

REMARKS

The claims are 28-39

The typographical error in claim 22 has been corrected in the re-drafted claims.

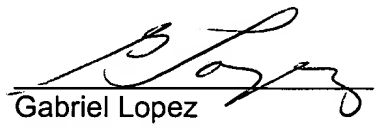
The provisional double patenting rejected is noted. Since the present application has an earlier filing date, it should be examined to allowance first and the rejection should be made in the later application.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for lack of enablement regarding any rapamycin. The rejection is traversed for the reasons provided in the response of 2/27/02. However, the claims are now limited to specific rapamycins, which the Examiner has noted are enabled.

It is requested that the amendment be entered and that the Examiner reconsider the rejection in view of the amendment and remarks and that the case be passed to issue.

A one-month extension is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136(a). Please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation in the amount of **$110** for payment of the extension fee. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR §1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 19-0134 in the name of Novartis Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,



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